

Some Remarks

on
The Bilious Discaas as they occurred in
King William County, Virginia
in the Summer and
Fall of
1820.

George Claiborne
No 305 Market
admitted March 4th 1821

In the
almost all
the human
have my
of some
a Subject
matter to
But, it
had had
me Call
it would
have the
so they see
I accord
to the Fac
of the Bic
King the
endeavour
is possible
After no

In looking over the extensive and almost endless Catalogue of diseases, to which the human family are subject, hoping to have my attention called to the consideration of some one of them more particularly, as a Subject for an essay, I found it a difficult matter to determine which I should select.

But, it soon occurred to me, that as we had had an unusually unhealthy Summer and Fall throughout the United States, it would be pleasing to the Faculty, to hear the History of the Bilious Diseases as they occurred in any district of Country.

I accordingly, have determined to offer to the Faculty the History and treatment of the Bilious Fevers as they occurred in King William County Virg. - This I shall endeavour to do in as Summary a manner as possible to be explicit.

After returning to Virginia last Spring,

my friend
I should
active coun
to do, for the
believing, the
familiar co
should have
different f
opened a
Doctor Bo
and holds
Medical m
in this of
three disti
between the
and the
had read
King
river / Pan
from the

my friend. Dr. Brewster proposed to me, that I should practice medicine with him in my native county, King William. This, I consented to do, for the purpose solely of improvement. Believing, that by so doing, I should make myself familiar with the different medicines, and, should have an opportunity of witnessing the different forms which our Bilious diseases assumed at different seasons of the year. Doctor Brewster is a graduate of this school, and holds a considerable rank among the medical men in the lower part of Virginia. In this essay I shall give the history of three distinct Fevers which occurred with us, between the Months of June and October, and the treatment which we adopted, and had reasons to be satisfied with.

King William is situated between the rivers Pamunkey, and Matoponi, which form the Forks of York river.

Along the
there is
which is
there are
not more
tions. In
cluded the
as we mean
indisputable
wasted to
in the des
widest part
than 20 N
Since the
who has ev
intended
mitted for
undergoing
cause of de
his country

Along the borders of each of these rivers there is a great deal of Marshy ground, which is overflowed by every tide, so that there are few seats on either river that are not more or less exposed to Marsh exhalations. Indeed, no part of our County is secluded from their visitations, if we admit (as we must necessarily do when it is so indisputably established) that they may be wafted to the distance of 8 or 10 miles. For, the distance from river to river, at the widest part of our County is not more than 20 miles.

Since the days of Lancelotti, no one I believe, (who has ever written on the subject) has pretended to doubt, but that the effluvia emitted from marshes and other places undergoing the process of putrefaction, is a cause of disease. As you may suppose then, our County is one of the most unhealthy

in the
Which
the people
were then
of Fever
Bilious &
Now, the
Disease. —
Producing
And the
of weather
exciting c
Inflamm
That the
were con
a Gall, s
difficult
to skid
The Patient

in the lower part of Virginia.

When I settled myself in the County, which was about the first of June, I found the people extremely unhealthy, the diseases were then wearing the garb of that species of Fever, termed Synocha, or our Common Bilious Inflammatory Fever.

Here, there were evidently two causes of disease. — The vast accumulations of bile producing a predisposition to disease, and the sudden and frequent vicissitudes of weather about that time, acting as an exciting cause, giving to the fever an Inflammatory type.

That this fever was Inflammatory we were convinced from the following symptoms, a full, strong pulse, flushed countenance, difficult respiration, with a hot and dry skin.

The patient would first complain of a

Chilling, by the
the head
with con-
Physicians
the la-
timidity, to
indicated
they did
justice to
Givers they
According
I think
and it.
to see the
-mentary
the foul
the green
this we
place an

Chillings, which would soon be followed by the symptoms already mentioned, the head being more or less affected, with considerable nausea.

Physicians in the lower part of Virginia use the lancet in Bilious Fevers with timidity, but here the symptoms so plainly indicated the use of the lancet, that they did not conceive that they had done justice to their patients, if in one of these Fevers they had withheld it.

Accordingly, with that intrepidity which I think well becomes the Physician, they used it. But we did not idly wait to see the effect of the lancet, the alimentary Canal was to be evacuated. The Foul tongue and nausea denoted the presence of much bile.

This we effected by giving in the first place an Emetic, composed of I. Emetic.

and the
more from
the note and
this dose
large, or
was subdu
Inflammat
calomet in
it soon as
we looked
was soon
the tongue
to give
what the
at the top
a small
which was
Lys of the
one of these
in several

and Ipecac. Which we thought acted more promptly and powerfully than the I. Emetic alone.

This dose was followed by a Mercurial purge, or purges. Until arterial action was subdued, and the symptoms of Inflammation removed, the Linct & Calomel in large doses were continued. So soon as that end was accomplished we looked for an intermission, but there was none. The Fever continuing and the tongue still foul, we determined to give Calomel in broken doses until the Patient was clear of life.

Dr. B. proposed that we should combine a small quantity of Ipecac with it which we did. 4 grs of Calomel and 2 grs of Ipecac were made into 2 pills, one of these was given every 2 hours until an evacuation was obtained. I was

much crop
effects. When
we found
to the same
the large do
began now
to keep up
Latta is br
There was
like cont
we were
Got some
the mouth
we could
in the Jes
Having
Commence
usual was
not in one
scope of

much surprised to see its wonderful effects. When it commenced its operation we found that the discharges were not of the same colour of those produced by the large doses of calomel. The patient began now to discharge black bile, and to keep up the discharge we gave Epsom Salts in broken doses.

²⁴ There was such a quantity of this black bile contained in the stomach, that we were compelled to keep up this course ~~for~~ some days, and frequently until the mouth was slightly touched, before we could procure an intermission in the fevers.

Having procured an intermission, we commenced with Tonics. The bark as usual was tried first, but I believe that not in one case which came within the scope of our practice, could the bark be

stagnant
just at
sometimes
combining
even in
little good
Quackia
effects.

It was
whom I
am so
and has
ices of
Rogers
31 and
The
with air
which the
and some
of the

retained. The stomach would invariably reject it, if given in substance. We could sometimes get the stomach to retain it by combining the Serpentaria with it, but even in this form it appeared to do but little good. We determined to try the Quassia which produced very satisfactory effects.

It was remarked by every Physician whom I consulted, that they had never seen so much black bile discharged, and had never known such protracted cases of Bilious Fever. Frequently the fevers would continue until the 30th and sometimes to the 40th day.

This form of Fever continued to prevail with us until about the 1st of July, at which time our County became more healthy and remained so until about the Middle of the month. After having two or three

weeks of
low case
this inter
flour even
we had
The soon
not weak
with, but
were gone
accompan
tongues
Lains in
load in
of a pair
ice of
strong.
The in
was now
not recol
cases in

weeks of very warm weather, we had a few cases of Bilious Remittent Fever. But this intense warm weather continuing for five weeks, produced more sickness, than we had had in the month of June.

We soon discovered that the fevers were not exactly such as those we had been dealing with, but a short time previously. Our patients were generally taken with an ague or chillings, accompanied by considerable nausea, their tongues foul and clammy, with violent pains in the head, complaining of a heavy load in their stomachs, and sometimes of a pain in their right side. At the rise of the fever the pulse was full and strong.

We in a short time discovered, the Lancet was now to be laid aside. Indeed, I do not recollect to have heard of but two cases in which the Lancet was used at all.

Both of
manage
who had
him with
-minded to
be done
The Second
to the Doc
Bristol was
he came,
of the Jew
Under the
neighbour
arrived,
-traded, as
but did
him. He
In this p
Take a g
-menace

Both of which Dr Braxton had the management of. The first case, was a man who had been sick for 2 or 3 days, he found him with a strong & full pulse. He determined to open a vein, but no sooner had he done so than his patient fainted.

The second case, was a man who previous to the Doctor seeing him, thought that the Doctor would certainly bleed him, when he came, as he had promised the treatment of the fever which occurred in June, by U.S. Under this impression he got one of his neighbours to bleed him. When the Doctor arrived, he found him so completely prostrated, as to despair of saving his life, but did every thing that he could to save him. He died on the third day.

In this fever, I frequently saw the Patients take a quantity of black bile at the commencement of the attack. When this was

not the
treaties
to soon
submitting
you than
pain in
until the
the load
after the
was given
until a
the alien
had received
the
before a
in m
were used
in this
back co

not the case we generally commenced the treatment by giving an Emetic, as usual. So soon as the Emetic had operated or the vomiting had ceased, they would tell you that the load in the stomach, and pain in the side were removed. But until the bile was started by some means, the load and pain remained.

After the Emetic a large dose of Calomel was given, and repeated every day or two until we had completely evacuated the Alimentary Canal, and the tongue had resumed its natural appearance.

Frequent cases came under my immediate observation where, weeks elapsed before we could carry off the bile.

In most of these cases the Cal. & Opac. were used with signal advantage.

In this fever, we used as Tonics the bark combined with the Serpentaria,

The laggs
depending
patient
by the 5th
much good
tonics.
This for
the first
a change
a week
way was
of the n
summer o
the sympt
different
instead
heretofore
laggs of p
she of go
becoming

The Sassa, Chamomile and some others, depending pretty much on the choice of the Patient. The bark in this fever was retained by the Stomach, and appeared to do as much good, if not more, than any other tonic.

This form of fever continued until about the first of Sept when again there was a change. About this time we had about a week of rainy weather after its being very warm, and was succeeded by a spell of the warmest weather we had last summer or fall.

The symptoms of disease now were quite different from what they had been. Instead of being taken suddenly as heretofore, they complained for several days of feeling badly as they would say, and of gradually losing their appetite, and becoming more unwell.

Instead of
before; we
The Father
born in the
Believing,
a mildew,
but a ch
Commenced
way, by go
continued
By this
of an em
Having
use of bo
we had
the disea
been in
prescribed
were tou
side not

Instead of a foul tongue, as we had seen before, we found it clean, dry, and polished. The patients would generally complain of a pain in their head and back.

Believing that this was nothing more than a mild form of ~~the~~ fever that we had but a short time before been treating, we commenced the treatment of it in the same way, by giving an Emetic, which we frequently combined with an ounce of Glauber's Salt. By this Combination, we got the full effects of an Emetic and Purgative.

Having derived so much benefit from the use of Calomel in the early part of the season, we had no reason to doubt its efficacy in this disease, being similar to what it had been in our former fevers. We accordingly prescribed it in its usual dose. But we were truly disappointed to find that it ~~did~~ not bring off the bile as it had done.

Having
these flowers
back with
yourself
rather c
we, with
loss of C
given with
You will
when I
loss of B
more copied
with 30
appeared to
How to a
of the Lalap
sometime.
that people
in this way
That

Having accidentally discovered in one of these Fevers, that a common dose of Peruvian bark with 10 grs of Salap in it acted very powerfully, we were induced to try it in another case. And so much pleased were we, with its operation, that after giving a dose of Calomel the Salap & bark was given until we had Purged sufficiently.

You will no doubt be surprised Gentlemen, when I assure you, that we found the dose of bark with 10 grs of Salap, produced more copious discharges than 10 grs of cal. with 30 grs of Salap with it. In fact Calomel appeared to do little or no good.

How to account for the Superior efficacy of the Salap and bark I was at a loss for some time. But it has since occurred to me that perhaps it might be accounted for in this way.

That the stomach was in a torpid

State, and
served to
stomach
Salad and
might be
be true,
decided.

The ex-
were quite
over-ear
ble were
generally,
nothing, s
of black,
at the b
cause of
I remark
was clear
at the c
on no tu

State, and the bark acting as a Stimulus, served to awaken the susceptibility of the stomach to the impression, which the Salub and Purgative property of the bark might make. How far this conjecture may be true, our well informed Faculty will decide.

The excrementitious discharges in this fever, were quite different from any, that I had ever seen before. Though vast quantities of bile were discharged at sometimes, yet more generally, we would find the evacuations nothing more than scybala, with a quantity of black, sandy, like looking, stuff deposited at the bottom, the nature of which, or the cause of which, I am entirely ignorant.

I remarked that in this fever the tongue was clean, dry and polished, but this was at the commencement of the attack. For on the two mornings would you find

the tongue
morning, 9
on the neck
crust. From
an insidious
the development
printed, for
paragative
the fever ap
was acute
to stimulate
explored, w
accordingly
over a period
our patient
tested, who
discharge of
the formation
suffer much
a measure

the tongue wearing the same aspect, on one morning you would find it as I have said; on the neck covered with a dark brown crust. From this disease appearing in such an insidious form, we were induced to fear the developement of it nor were we disappointed, for we were often impeded in our purgative course by the typhoid type which the fever assumed. But when we could use evacuants no longer, we had recourse to stimulants, the bark and wine we preferred, which answered our purpose exceedingly well. About the time that the fever assumed this low grade of action, our patients hearing would be much affected, which would sometimes end in a discharge of matter from the ear. During the formation of matter the patient would suffer much pain, which we alleviated in a measure by the application of a blister

behind
and we
removed
of the dice
for this
to the cor
inadequ
In the
treating,
hins ca
Should
with the
big leave
of these
of which
large Co
local. N
worms, d
The pract
where we

behind the ear, and injecting warm milk and water into it. This course frequently removed the pain, and checked the progress of the disease in that part. How to account for this concomitant complaint, is a problem to the solution of which, I acknowledge my inadequacy.

In the diseases of which I have been treating, I have alone considered them as being caused by a surplus of bile. Should it not be considered inconsistent with the subject of this dissertation, I would beg leave to notice here, the circumstance of there being connected with the fevers of which I have spoken, the effects of a large collection of worms in the alimentary canal. Never have we seen as many worms discharged, as during the last summer. The practice pursued by us, in all cases where we suspected the presence of worms

can be
After your
starting
according
of this
contained
Inaction
this subject
-ness, as it
I suspected
disappointe
ative conc
blious, I
imparts to
our best
Blitious, I
my speak
such is my
I made
But this, I

can be detailed in a few lines.

After purging with calomel, and once starting them, we gave the turpentine according to the directions of Dr. Klapp of this City, in his essay on this subject contained in the Medical recorder. Which practice succeeded admirably well.

This subject I was the more anxious to introduce, as in the treatment of a case where I suspected the presence of worms, (but was disappointed) I ascertained that the turpentine could be beneficially employed, in bilious fevers, after proper evacuations. It imparts tone to the stomach, as readily as our best tonics. My experience with it in Bilious fevers is not sufficient to warrant my speaking positively respecting it, but such is my impression from the slight trial I made with it.

But this, I assert to be a fact. Recollecting

its effects is
determined
Intermittent
management
the agent. I
using it, a
positive effect
in the dose
the accipiter
repeated m
before the a
the same-se
things
the product

its effects in these few cases of Bilious fever, I determined to try it, in the first case of Intermittent fever, which I might have the management of, to see if it would not stop the ague. I soon had an opportunity of trying it, and after giving one or two doses of active evacuant, I gave the turpentine in the dose of ʒj. which effectually prevented the accession of the paroxysm. I afterwards repeated my experiments, giving it shortly before the anticipated paroxysm, and with the same success. In no one instance, was ^{there} the production of alarming consequences.